IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Continuation Patent Application of Application No. 09/511,893

Minoru HASHIMOTO et al.

Examiner: G. Patel

Application No.: To Be Assigned

Art Unit: 2655

Filed: August 15, 2003

For: OPTICAL DISC DRIVE FOR PERFORMING READ/WRITE OPERATIONS AND

OPTICAL DISKS (AS AMENDED)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as set forth below.

Claims 8-19 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 8, 13, 17, and 18 are amended and claims 1-7 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

(There are no amendments to the drawings)